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First regular session, 1981

FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 21 April 1981, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KOMATINA (Yugoslavia)

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Statistical questions

Population questions

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

STATISTICAL QUESTIONS (E/1981/12)

1. Mr. NORDBOTTEN (Director, Statistical Office) drew the Committee's attention to some of the main issues raised in the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-first session (E/1981/12). A first set of issues concerned the priority which the Statistical Commission was continuing to give to the development and improvement of national statistics, particularly in developing countries and specifically with regard to international statistical standards, recommendations, guidelines, handbooks and technical reports. The Commission had endorsed the recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and recommended a draft resolution on the subject for adoption by the Council. It was also continuing a programme for developing a framework for environmental statistics and actively promoting the development and co-ordination of technical co-operation activities aimed at improving the statistical capability of developing countries, with particular emphasis on technical co-operation in statistical data processing. That included the provision of technical support in statistical data processing, the development of packaged software for performing major statistical data-processing functions, the provision of advice regarding hardware acquisition and use by developing countries and the general co-ordination of related international activities. As to the National Household Survey Capability Programme, project-formulation missions had been undertaken in 21 of the 35 developing countries which had expressed interest in the Programme since 1980, project proposals for 10 countries had been approved by the Governments concerned and proposals for 8 more countries were nearly completed. In the area of technical co-operation, the Commission had endorsed the arrangement whereby the Statistical Office provided substantive support to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development on all statistics and data-processing projects.

2. A second set of related issues discussed by the Commission concerned the development of statistics at the national and international levels. In the field of energy statistics, the Commission had recommended to the Council a draft resolution on international energy statistics strongly urging the concerted development of national statistics according to international guidelines and according high priority to the development of new statistics theories in that field at the international level. In the area of social and demographic statistics, the Commission had reaffirmed its support for the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

3. A third set of issues which the Commission had addressed concerned the co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes; co-ordination by the Statistical Office was especially important in such areas as standards and classifications, energy and environment statistics standards, trade and the balance of payments, and public sector and monetary statistics. Moreover, systems that were subordinate to the System of National Accounts and Balances (SNA) must be co-ordinated and consistent with it.

(Mr. Nordbotten)

4. Subject to technical changes and recommended priorities, the Commission had endorsed the proposed 1980-1983 draft work programme (draft decision A) and 1984-1989 medium-term plan of the Statistical Office. Other areas to which the Commission had accorded high priority included the review and further development of SNA and its linking with the system of material product balances; the development, updating and harmonizing of standard international classifications; international trade statistics; price and related statistics; and environment statistics. The Commission had approved the provisional agenda and the proposed documentation for the twenty-second session and had asked that its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination should consider more fully the documentation to be made available to the Commission to enable it to carry out its required functions in relation to the review of the draft work programme and medium-term plan of the Statistical Office and co-ordination among the international agencies and to finalize the draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session, taking those requirements into account. The Commission had accordingly (draft decision C) requested the Council to extend the ninth session of the Working Group to four days, from 29 September to 2 October 1981. The Commission had also recommended (draft decision B) that its twenty-second session should be held at New York in the first quarter of 1983.

5. In conclusion, he said the Commission felt that a discussion of the future orientation of its work, such as was described in the report on its twenty-first session, should be undertaken periodically in order to keep pace with, and even anticipate, the evolution of the international statistical system. Particular attention should be devoted to the use of administrative records for statistical purposes, the importance of closer contacts between users and producers of international statistics, the necessity of avoiding duplication in international statistical collection and publication activities, the emerging importance of regional and global information networks based on telecomputer technology, the emerging role of commercial organizations in disseminating statistics from the international agencies through computer services, and the need for further study of ways to improve the implementation of international recommendations. The Working Group had accordingly been requested to identify special topics to be taken up by the Commission at its forthcoming session.

6. Mr. VORONIN (Secretary of the Committee) drew the Committee's attention to possible financial implications of two of the decisions adopted by the Statistical Commission. Paragraph 2 of draft resolution II on international energy statistics requested the Secretary-General to accord priority to specific areas of statistical work. It was felt that that request could be met by the redeployment of existing resources, and therefore the matter would be examined further. With regard to draft decision C, he said that the proposal for extending the ninth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination to four days should involve no financial implications, as such a provision had already been included in the proposed programme budget for 1980/1981.

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the list of speakers on the item should be closed at 6 p.m. that day.

8. It was so decided.

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POPULATION QUESTIONS (A/36/117; E/1981/13)

9. Mr. ZIMMERMAN (United States of America) said that his Government recommended acceptace of the Population Commission's report by the Economic and Social Council and strongly supported the draft resolution on the strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action, which contained specific recommendations for priority action by Governments and regional and international bodies. It also endorsed the resolution on the work programme in the field of population. He reaffirmed his Government's support for the convening of a World Population Conference in 1984 (draft resolution I), which it believed must be cost-effective and substantive. It therefore found fully acceptable the draft resolution's recommendation that the Conference should be conducted "with economy in size of delegations, duration and other cost factors" and be devoted "to the discussion of selected issues of the highest priority".

10. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that UNFPA was prepared to present proposals regarding the provision of extrabudgetary resources to its Governing Council in June in the event of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the draft resolution calling for the convening of a World Population Conference in 1984. The financial requirements for the Conference would be staggered between 1982 and 1984. Expenditure was expected to be quite minimal, since a joint effort would be made by the secretariats of UNFPA and the Population Council to meet most of the manpower requirements with the existing regular staff of the two organizations. Since the 1974 World Population Conference, much work had been carried out in the field of population, and an assessment of what had been achieved under the World Population Plan of Action over the decade was required. Moreover, there were regional differences that needed review in the light of the tremendous operational activities that had taken place in 131 countries and territories throughout the world. He thanked the Population Division and the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs for the co-operation which they had extended to UNFPA.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.

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FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 April 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KOMATINA (Yugoslavia)

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Population questions (continued)

Statistical questions (continued)

Election of Vice-Chairmen

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

POPULATION QUESTIONS (A/36/117; E/1981/13 and E/1981/40; E/1981/C.1/L.1) (continued)

1. Mr. BAUCHARD (France) said that his delegation had listened with interest to the report introduced by Mr. Tabah on the twenty-first session of the Population Commission and agreed with the analysis which he had made regarding population trends and policies. It should be pointed out in particular that the population growth rate had fallen in a growing number of developing countries and that, while the international community could provide support, it was for the States concerned to define the measures to be adopted in that field. It was, however, the qualitative aspects of population phenomena, and in particular the problems raised by faster urban growth, which were distressing and deserved to be studied more closely.

2. His delegation supported the proposed convening of an international population conference. While recognizing that the main cause of population problems continued to be under-development, he believed it essential to do some updating in view of the new international environment. He welcomed the fact that the Secretariat, anticipating the concerns of many delegations, envisaged preparing the conference with the use of existing facilities, without creating a new bureaucracy. The preparation, organization and holding of the conference would have France's full support.

3. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation was satisfied with the work done by the Population Commission and the general orientation of its activities, especially on such topics as population trends and policies, population and development, interrelationships between social and economic factors and the components of demographic change and the correlation between population, resources, environment and development. In according priority to those topics within the context of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the World Population Conference, the Commission was contributing substantially to the implementation of policy at the national and international levels and to a better understanding of population trends, whether in respect of increasing or decreasing rates of population growth or of the movement of population from rural to urban areas or of the migration of workers across frontiers, a particularly acute problem in Europe and some countries of the Middle East. By undertaking studies on subjects such as fertility and mortality, the Commission had also contributed to knowledge of the various factors which influenced population growth. For those reasons, he believed it essential to make every effort to control rates of population growth in order to make them compatible with national economic potentials. In that regard, he believed that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) was doing extremely useful work which could have an impact on over-all population activities.

4. With regard to the recommendation of the Commission, his delegation supported the draft resolution on the convening of a world population conference in 1984. However, he believed it necessary to specify its mandate and scope and Governments,

(Mr. Lazarevic, Yugoslavia)

experts and representatives of the regional commissions should participate in the preparation of the conference so that all the peculiarities of each region would be fully reflected. With regard to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, it seemed preferable to prepare detailed reports only every four years instead of every two years, because the changes which took place over a two-year period were not significant enough.

5. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that his delegation had followed with interest the statements made by the Director of the Population Division and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. He noted that the latest projections indicated that substantial population increase, mainly in the developing countries, would persist, and that the population of those countries would grow by almost 50 per cent between 1980 and 2000. That projection also indicated that in 2025 the population of Africa would triple and that of South Asia would double, while there would be an increase of 150 per cent in Latin America and of almost 50 per cent in China. That would inevitably lead to very serious problems, especially for a number of developing countries with high population densities.

6. The international community was aware of problems such as bad health conditions, unemployment, insufficient food production, inadequate education, lack of housing, rural migration to cities, international migration and dangers to the environment. It had become more aware since the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action in 1974 and had recognized that those problems were critical factors in the implementation of national development plans. It was evident that population problems were not limited to rates of growth, but also included the uneven distribution of population among countries. It should be remembered that recently, in their commitment to the new International Development Strategy, Governments had renewed their resolve to deal with population issues urgently and to accord them the importance they deserved in their over-all development policies. In Bangladesh, there were 1,700 persons per square mile and the rapid rate of population growth was one of the problems currently facing the country. The Government, with the support of UNFPA, had launched a programme of education, employment of women, birth control and other family planning services designed to influence demographic behaviour.

7. The Government of Bangladesh fully supported the recommendation of the Population Commission to convene a world population conference in 1984 in order to give fresh impetus to the World Population Plan of Action. It believed also that the conference should concentrate on selected issues of high priority, within the framework of the existing Plan. At the same time, Governments should study other areas, such as the world distribution of population and related concepts. Governments should co-operate with the bodies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and experts in preparing the conference. Bangladesh agreed that the Population Commission should act as the preparatory committee for the conference, provided that its meetings were open-ended.

8. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation in 1981 (A/36/117) was a very useful document which gave an

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(Mr. Silwal, Nepal)

overview of the existing situation at the global and regional levels. The report indicated that, although population growth on the global level was expected to decline marginally by the year 2000, estimates were not encouraging in the case of most developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where the problem had to be addressed seriously. In that connexion, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs had stated in the Population Commission that the rapid growth of population had been concentrated in the poorest and most populated regions of the world, while the considerable growth in economic activities had occurred largely in the most affluent regions. Most Governments were aware of the crucial importance of the demographic factor in their economic and social development.

9. His delegation had studied the report of the twenty-first session of the Population Commission (E/1981/13) which indicated that UNFPA had done commendable work in initiating various programmes in several developing countries. Nepal took the greatest interest in that type of initiative because it had profound implications for its long-term development. Census data in Nepal showed an increase in population from 8 million in 1951 to 11.6 million in 1971, and a current annual growth rate of 2.3 per cent. Because of the population pressure on limited cultivable land resources, the demographic situation in Nepal was regarded as serious and it was for that reason that population control was given priority in Nepal's six-year plan. The Government had adopted a policy of intensifying family planning programmes and other methods with a view to ensuring a steady decline in fertility.

10. In conclusion, his delegation supported the proposal to convene a world population conference in 1984. That conference should concentrate on priority issues and, while reviewing the achievements during the 10 years since the Bucharest Conference, it should focus on concrete measures to stimulate regional and international co-operation.

10. Mr. KALACHINSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled that population problems were inseparable from economic and social problems in general and could be solved only by taking into account the special characteristics of each country. His own country had managed to find a solution to those problems despite the slaughter of the Second World War and the destruction of hundreds of towns and thousands of villages. It had, however, taken all the determination and courage of the Byelorussian people to make up those losses and 30 years to overcome the drop in population. His delegation believed therefore that any solution of population problems must necessarily include total elimination of the massacres of human beings and of the destruction of national wealth.

11. With regard to his country's demographic experience, it was Byelorussia's economic, scientific and cultural successes that had paved the way for its success, particularly with regard to life expectancy which had been 37 and a half years in 1917 and was now 71 years. The comprehensive programme of measures adopted at the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party with a view to raising the standard of living and cultural level of the country's population demonstrated, once again, if there was any need to, the importance which the State attached to the population's welfare.

(Mr. Kalachinsky, Byelorussian SSR)

12. His delegation could endorse the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-first session and welcomed the fact that the Commission had confirmed the continuing relevance and validity of the principles set forth in the World Population Plan of Action adopted in 1974. With regard to the draft resolution on the convening of a world population conference in 1984, his Government believed that such a conference would contribute very little towards solving population problems, the important point being to implement the recommendations already formulated. If the conference did take place, therefore, it should be financed solely from extrabudgetary resources.

13. Mr. STEVENS (Belgium) recalled that his Government, having concerned itself primarily with the population problems of the third world, was now preoccupied with the more recent problems of Belgium, the causes of which were the reverse of those of the third world. In Belgium, the fertility rate had dropped to 16 per thousand, well below the minimum threshhold of 21 per thousand needed to keep the population at its current level. The gradual aging of Belgium's population was disquieting for it jeopardized the people's capacity for innovation and initiative and hence its future growth. His delegation therefore welcomed the proposal to convene another world population conference in 1984 in order to adapt the Bucharest Plan of Action to changes in States' perceptions of population problems and to regional peculiarities. The preparatory work for the Conference, which now more than ever demanded a multidisciplinary scientific approach, should not be restricted to analysing different population behaviours but should also include studying the interrelationships between the factors and the various consequences of population trends. His country endorsed the Population Commission's firm intention of holding a short, low-cost conference and supported the second and third draft resolutions, while recommending the greatest possible caution with regard to the financial implications of the provisions of the draft resolution on the programme of work in the field of population.

14. Mr. MURIITHI (Kenya) commended the Population Commission on its report and supported the recommendations contained therein. Population control was a controversial issue in Africa. Kenya had one of the highest population growth rates in the world (from 3.2 per cent at independence to 4 per cent in 1980) and official population policy, as set forth in the Fourth National Development Plan (1979-1983) acknowledged that decisions which parents took with regard to the size of their families must be influenced by education. Such an exercise required tremendous financial resources and trained manpower.

15. The population problems of the developing countries were structural in nature and tended to constrain the implementation of their development plans. It was encouraging to note therefore that the Population Commission had addressed itself to the interrelationships between population and development and to the integration of demographic factors into national and international development strategies. His delegation was convinced that the World Population Plan of Action would be strengthened by the convening of a world population conference in 1984, preceded by interregional meetings of experts in 1983. In order to overcome their population problems, the developing countries needed to draw on the experience acquired by the United Nations system in population control and on increased

(Mr. Muriithi, Kenya)

assistance from the developed countries. His delegation therefore supported the three draft resolutions in the Commission's report, which gave the various organs of the United Nations system the necessary legal authority to intensify their population activities.

16. Mr. TURYANSKIY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled that population questions were a matter of national and international importance and that population data were useful for planning economic and social development. It should be noted that in its report the Population Commission recognized the continuing relevance of the principles and objectives set forth in the World Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest in 1974, and States must continue to implement the provisions of that Plan.

17. The exacerbation of numerous current socio-economic problems was frequently blamed on rapid population growth or other biological, geographical or psychological factors. History had shown, however, that it was not population growth which determined the basic distribution of material goods but rather that methods of production determined population growth and structure and the rate and direction of social development. As a result, his country was counting on its highly advanced economic development to help it deal successfully with population problems. It was also continuing to take economic and social steps to raise its population's standard of living. It could not, however, resort to coercion in order to limit the birth rate: not only would it be violating the inalienable right of every family and in particular of every woman but it was in fact anxious to increase its population as one of the main ways of increasing its national wealth. At the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party, the Soviet Government had moreover indicated that it intended over the next five years to increase its assistance to children and to improve the living conditions of working women, notably by establishing day-care centres or boarding schools. Two decrees had also been issued recently on improving the system of family allowances and social welfare in general.

18. With regard to the draft resolution on convening a world population conference in 1984, his delegation had already indicated that it believed it premature to convene such a conference. If the conference did take place, however, it must be financed from existing budgetary appropriations.

19. Mr. ESAN (Nigeria) said that, in its concern at the growth of its population, which already totalled 80 million inhabitants, the Nigerian Government had taken due note of the observations in the report of the Population Commission and the report of the Secretary-General on population trends in sub-Saharan Africa. Recognizing the close link between population and the development process, it was seeking, by its economic development programme, to check the drift of population from the countryside to urban centres which had had the twofold effect of lowering agricultural production and placing undue pressure on economic infrastructures in the cities, quite apart from creating social problems as a result of urban unemployment. In its target of achieving universal primary education and expanding health facilities, his Government was giving serious

(Mr. Esan, Nigeria)

attention to demographic questions and to family planning in particular. Convinced that the success of the Fourth National Development Plan (1981-1985) was dependent on the availability of reliable population data, his Government had taken steps towards conducting a new census. It had recently completed a demographic sample survey and a fertility survey was in progress. His Government still regarded the targets of the World Population Plan of Action as valid, but welcomed the proposal to convene a world population conference in 1984 which would provide an opportunity to bring the Plan of Action into line with the present situation.

20. Mr. NGUA LA (Zaire) felt that, although it was interesting to compare population development in developed and developing countries, it would be preferable to study the causes of the increasing discrepancy. He supported the convening of a world conference in 1984 because, without calling in question the measures recommended by the Bucharest Conference, it would ensure their better implementation by analysing whatever had thus far impeded their application. Zaire was in favour of the three draft resolutions but was prepared to consider any amendment proposed by other delegations.

21. Mr. WAKAGUGI (Japan) noted that his country had demonstrated its interest in the activities of the Population Commission by actively participating in its work since 1958. As a sponsor of draft resolution I, it wished to add a few supplementary proposals. In its view, the Commission was too small to carry out all the preparatory work for the Conference, and one session in 1983 would not be enough to complete it. He therefore proposed that all States should be invited to participate as full members during the preparatory period and that the Commission should hold a special session in 1983. Those proposals could be considered during informal consultations. As for the amendment proposed by the representative of the USSR (E/1981/C.1/L.1), his delegation was convinced that the last sentence of paragraph 1 of draft resolution I was sufficiently moderate to meet the request of the Soviet delegation.

22. Mrs. RAVN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said their Governments considered that family planning was a human right and that it should be seen as part of an active social policy, especially in the area of public health. Uncontrolled population growth increased the pressure on limited resources, at both the global and the national levels. Besides the differences between developed and developing countries and among developing countries, present trends indicated that the world population would increase from 4 billion to approximately 8 billion in 2020 and to 12 billion in 2040 and that most of the growth would occur in developing countries, which in the year 2025 were likely to account for 85 per cent of the world population. While at one extreme some developing countries had shown a startling decrease in fertility in recent years, many others had such an excess of births over deaths that their population might double in 20 to 25 years, causing great strain on their development efforts unless significant emigration took place. Since the economic situation in those countries was already difficult, the question was whether increased mortality could be avoided.

23. Another problem which required attention was the growth of megacities (now numbering 10, of which six were in developing countries). It was estimated that

(Mrs. Ravn, Norway)

by the end of the century there would be 25 megacities, each with a population of between 15 million and 30 million, which would create enormous problems with respect to sanitation, water supply, housing and employment. Although developed countries could expect a continuing negative natural growth of population, which was causing them concern, the growth of the world population was by far the most serious problem. The United Nations should be prepared to provide assistance to countries which wanted it in tackling their population problems; the developed countries should also provide multilateral and bilateral assistance, as the Nordic Governments had been doing for several decades both directly and through UNFPA. The World Fertility Survey, which had provided much of the information presented in the report of the Population Commission, had been conducted by the International Statistical Institute and financed by grants from UNFPA; the Nordic Governments urged that UNFPA should continue to support that valuable programme.

24. Finally, the Nordic countries unanimously recommended that the 1984 conference should concentrate on a very limited number of issues directed towards the further implementation of the Plan of Action, the principles and objectives of which continued to be fully valid. They supported the designation of the Population Commission as the preparatory committee and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs as co-ordinator of the preparations. Such a conference, more limited in scope and of a more technical nature than the Bucharest Conference, would enhance the possibility of ensuring progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted in 1974.

25. Mr. SHER (Pakistan) noted that the impressive economic gains in a number of developing countries had been neutralized by population growth. According to the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation in 1981 (A/36/117), 55 developing countries comprising 59 per cent of the world's population were desirous of reducing their natural rate of population growth, whereas some developed countries were concerned about their present low fertility rate. Those problems could not be resolved individually; their solution was therefore a global responsibility of the world community.

26. The primary aim of population planning should not be to restrain population growth in the developing countries but to remove the obstacles to economic and social development. The exploitation of third world countries by the colonial Powers had also contributed to their under-development, and it was therefore the responsibility of the developed countries to provide adequate financial and technical assistance to the developing countries. As the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities had said, the world community should pay special attention to the recommendations of the Willy Brandt independent commission and of the Colombo Plan Declaration for an annual target of $1 billion in international population assistance to be achieved by 1984. To assist developing countries, the developed countries could also do away with their restrictive trade practices.

27. The population of Pakistan would probably double by the year 2000, and the population pyramid and the negligible participation of women in productive employment would place a heavy burden on the economically active population.

(Mr. Sher, Pakistan)

Accordingly, a Population Welfare Plan (1981-1983) had been prepared. It was designed, firstly, to create behavioural change, and, secondly, to overcome limitations in services. The Plan, which reflected a multidisciplinary approach, sought to achieve its objectives through the involvement of the community on a collective basis. It also sought to modify the social system and even proposed measures beyond family planning as such.

28. His delegation hoped that the future World Population Conference would be conducted with the utmost economy and would result in the development of a programme of action aimed at improving the productivity of the human factor.

29. Miss BALI (India) stressed that the three Population Conferences held in 1954, 1964 and 1974 had been instrumental in focusing world attention on the importance of demographic issues. Her delegation therefore felt that a 1984 conference was needed to take stock of the progress achieved and to strengthen implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the Bucharest Conference. Her delegation was also in favour of the provision in draft resolution I of the Population Commission to assign the role of preparatory committee for the 1984 conference to the Commission. India welcomed the concern for economy reflected in the wording of the two draft resolutions and supported them.

STATISTICAL QUESTIONS (E/1981/12) (continued)

30. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) paid tribute to the United Nations Statistical Office which was called upon to play a pre-eminent role in the setting of international statistical standards. Substantively, there was, in his view, a need to strive for greater consistency among international statistical standards issued by the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies and the Organization had an important task to accomplish in that field. As an illustration, he referred first to the case of international trade in commodities. The United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) had developed a new set of standards relating to such trade which was inconsistent with the System of National Accounts also issued by UNSO. As the System of National Accounts was in the course of being reviewed, his delegation wondered whether finalization of the new international trade standards should not be deferred in order to achieve consistency with the revised System of National Accounts. If there were good practical reasons for failing to achieve such consistency, his delegation would like to know them and to know how data should be recorded in order to compile statistics complying with both systems. The second inconsistency lay between the United Nations System of National Accounts and the IMF Balance of Payments Manual. Other organizations should endeavour to achieve consistency with the United Nations standards.

31. His delegation felt that the proposals made in 1980 by the expert group might be a little ambitious. They certainly would constitute a very heavy workload, if pursued, for national statistical offices, to the detriment of other pressing demands. Furthermore, Australia believed that some of the proposed extensions of data collection in such fields as environmental protection and the use of natural resources would not be efficacious; they would divert the Statistical Office from its primary functions. Finally, Australia welcomed the work done by the

(Mr. Joseph, Australia)

Statistical Commission in January in seeking to establish a scale of priorities for the various projects included in the work programme of the Statistical Office. However, his delegation regretted that the Commission had been unable to identify completed, obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective activities in the proposed work programme.

32. Mr. MARDOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), after paying tribute to members of the Statistical Commission and the Statistical Office for the important and valuable tasks they had accomplished in many areas, said that his delegation felt however, that the United Nations Statistical Office should give greater attention to the compilation of environmental and energy statistics, the development of the System of National Accounts, the achievement of consistency between that system and the System of Balances of the National Economy, the harmonization of international classification standards and the preparation of methods and standards for collecting information in various sectors of the national economy. The Byelorussian SSR also felt that it was important to establish a unified international system of economic classification and that to do so would require deeper research into the specifics of United Nations, CMEA and EEC classification systems and the differences between them, while paying due attention to specific conditions existing in developing countries.

33. UNSO should also identify its efforts in the field of environmental statistics, in order to develop a comprehensive statistical data collecting and processing system. It would also be necessary when preparing such projects to draw fully on the experience of various countries, in particular, on the very rich experience of socialist countries. Developing countries were not benefiting as much as they might from such experience; the personnel of socialist countries were not sufficiently called upon to meet technical co-operation needs. The Byelorussian SSR also felt that in order to increase the number of United Nations statistical activities, research in sectors deemed less important by the Statistical Commission should be limited. Such limitation would affect studies on national practices relating to classification by type and size of agglomerations and of urban and rural areas. Duplication and overlapping should be avoided and outdated publications should be eliminated. His delegation considered finally that the recommendations of the Statistical Commission would have a positive influence on future statistical activities and therefore approved the Commission's report.

34. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) said that his delegation had consistently commended the Commission's work in developing standards which facilitated the international comparison of national statistics, the co-ordination of the statistical work of the specialized agencies and the improvement of national statistics in important fields. He hailed the election, for the first time, of a United States representative as Chairman of the Commission. The United States supported the adoption of the two resolutions recommended by the Statistical Commission and supported the request of the Commission to extend the ninth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination to four days.

(Mr. Brecher, United States)

35. The discussion during the twenty-first session of the Commission had suggested that the Commission should adopt a more future-oriented approach. Accordingly, the Commission had requested the Working Group to determine special topics of importance to be taken up at future sessions. By expanding the functions of the Working Group to consider issues of detail and some routine aspects of the Commission's work, the Commission could concentrate its attention on the short-term and long-term plans. His delegation was pleased to note that the Commission would be considering at its next session two specific questions, namely, the statistical use of administrative files and information technology.

36. Mr. YEVLOKIMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), while recalling the importance and value of the work of the Statistical Commission, said that particular attention should be given to making the experience of census organization possessed by a number of countries, among them the Soviet Union, available to the developing countries. However, in order to improve the efficiency of the work of the Statistical Commission and Office, his delegation proposed that the Office should expedite the setting-up of an environmental statistics system, promote the development of energy statistics, and give greater importance to improving the consistency of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy. That considerable task would be greatly facilitated by more active participation from the Conference of European Statisticians and the equivalent organs of the other regional commissions. Also, in the preparation of population statistics, greater emphasis should be laid on co-ordinating the statistics of countries with differing systems. Work should also be continued to refine classification systems and nomenclatures by eliminating certain secondary questions and by taking greater account, in the elaboration of recommendations in that field as in others, of the needs and possibilities of developing countries together with the successful experience of certain countries, and especially the socialist countries, which were particularly well-versed in the co-ordination of national statistics for the purposes of economic and social development planning. The Soviet Union, specifically, produced a large number of useful publications on a variety of statistical questions.

37. In order to make the work of the United Nations in that field more efficient, it was necessary to improve publications dealing with statistical questions, to avoid duplication, to make better use of data produced by the various countries and to eliminate publications containing outdated information. Unfortunately, the documents produced by the Statistical Office did not always pay sufficient attention to the experience of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, and particularly to the assistance which they offered in that field to developing countries. There were also inaccuracies in the statistical data on the socialist countries submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

38. The activities envisaged by the Statistical Office should be financed from existing budgetary appropriations and should not involve any additional expenditure. The work of the Statistical Commission and Office should be directed towards promoting the development of an international statistics system and, through the drawing up of priority programmes, towards co-ordinating the activities of the specialized agencies and other international organizations in the statistical

(Mr. Yevdokeyev, USSR)

field. Subject to the aforegoing remarks, the Soviet delegation would not oppose the adoption of the Statistical Commission's report on its twenty-first session.

39. Mr. RUSO (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five delegations of the Nordic countries, congratulated Mr. Nordbotten and his staff on their excellent work in preparing for the last meeting of the Statistical Commission as well as for the current session of the Economic and Social Council. At its last session, the Commission had paid much attention to increasing the effectiveness of its work. Particular emphasis had been laid on co-ordinating the Commission's functions with those of other United Nations bodies. Improved technology had also enabled the processing of statistical information to be increasingly integrated with that of administrative records and other information. In view of the breadth of the issue, the Nordic delegations wished to limit their remarks to the following four points. First, they welcomed the fact that the specific problems of the developing countries had been taken into consideration in the discussion of each statistical question. The Nordic countries were prepared to share their experience, in particular in connexion with civil registration statistics, with the developing countries. Secondly, the promising work recently started on environment statistics should justify considering seriously the allocation of resources to enable it to be organized on a regular basis. Thirdly, the Statistical Commission should give increased attention to the extremely rapid development of new data processing and communication technologies, especially from the point of view of their implications for development activities and the rationalization of administrative procedures. Finally, the Nordic delegations welcomed the progress made in establishing the National Household Survey Capability Programme.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

40. The CHAIRMAN announced that, following informal consultations in the regional groups, Miss Zanabria (Peru) and Mr. Vich (Turkey) had been proposed as candidates for the posts of Vice-Chairmen.

41. Miss Zanabria and Mr. Vich were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

42. Mr. VORONIN (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out two errors in document E/1981/C.1/L.1: first, the document related to item 14 and not item 13 of the agenda; and, secondly, in the Russian and Spanish versions the auxiliary should of the final verb of the proposed replacement paragraph had been translated by a future tense.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

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FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 23 April 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KOMATINA (Yugoslavia)

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Population questions (continued)

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Unified approach to development analysis and planning

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

STATISTICAL QUESTIONS (E/1981/12) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution I, entitled "1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics" (E/1981/12).

2. It was so decided.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had agreed to delete the third preambular paragraph of draft resolution II, entitled "International Energy Statistics". If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution, as amended.

4. It was so decided.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decisions A, B and C.

6. It was so decided.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of item 13.

POPULATION QUESTIONS (A/36/117; E/1981/13, E/1981/40; E/1981/C.1/L.1) (continued)

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone its consideration of draft resolution I, entitled "Convening of a World Population Conference in 1984" (E/1981/12), until the second regular session of the Council.

9. It was so decided.

10. Mr. VELLOSO (Brazil) asked whether, when formulating the recommendation in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the Population Commission had considered other possibilities. The fact that 10 years had elapsed since the last United Nations World Population Conference did not in itself justify the convening of a new Conference.

11. The formulation of the draft resolution was somewhat ambiguous, since in paragraph 1 it recommended to the General Assembly the convening of the Conference, but in the remaining paragraphs the Economic and Social Council itself would be taking action on the matter. His delegation agreed fully with the principle embodied in paragraph 6, but wondered if the Population Commission had considered ways of involving States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies in the preparations for the Conference. With regard to paragraph 10, he felt that the Secretary-General's criteria for convening an expert group, which were set forth in document E/1981/40, should be expressed

(Mr. Velloso, Brazil)

more clearly in the draft resolution. The cost of public information activities for the Conference, as listed in document E/1981/40, annex I, item H, amounted to 20 per cent of the total cost for the Conference. Those activities had not been defined, and he suggested that details on them should be submitted to the second regular session of the Council.

12. Mr. SACH (Budget Division) said that a corrigendum to document E/1981/40 would be issued. An error had been made in calculating the total estimated cost for the Conference. Instead of the figure $3,300,000 appearing in annex I, the correct figure was $3,009,200. The change was due to re-estimates of additional requirements for the Santiago and Bangkok meetings, according to which the total cost of the Santiago meeting would decline from $268,300 to $207,200 and costs for the Bangkok meeting would be reduced from $391,900 to $162,200.

13. Ms. DOSS (Director, Division for Economic and Social Information) said that public information could play a key role in preparing the climate for conferences and designated years and enhancing the impact of the decisions taken. Her Department (DPI) was still working out the details of a joint action programme with its sister agencies, but the philosophy behind the programme was that public information could be a valuable tool for mobilizing understanding and support for issues, not only among the general public but also on the part of policy-makers, and ensuring that the decisions of conferences were followed up. Media activities were only one part of the action programme. Population issues were closely intertwined with many other economic and social issues, such as environment, development, human rights, urbanization, women and youth, and DPI wished to focus on those problems as well. One way of doing so was by commissioning world-famous experts to prepare briefing papers and lectures focusing on unmet needs, new approaches and alternative solutions. Another activity would be support for national and local groups through training fellowships which could encourage the fellowship holders to return to their countries and help to develop and improve national programmes and activities. A world population atlas would also be published and would stress progress made since 1974. Panel discussions and television debates on the issues would be held, and research projects carried out in schools and universities would be the basis for international exchanges of information. Various types of publications would be issued and action would be taken in the audio-visual field. DPI viewed its role as an integral part of the Conference rather than a simple publicity effort.

14. She noted in conclusion that, although austerity had been called for at the last World Population Conference, the information programme alone had cost over $1 million.

15. Mr. TABAH (Director, Population Division), replying to the first question from the representative of Brazil, said that the Population Commission believed there was a need for a World Population Conference in 1984 because in the past decade many changes had taken place in the world population situation. For instance, many African countries were in alarming straits owing to increases in mortality and fertility and housing problems. Furthermore, the implementation over the past 10 years of the World Population Plan of Action needed to be monitored and

(Mr. Tabah, Population Division)

Governments should be encouraged to take steps in accordance with their national policies. With regard to the question on expert groups, he said that such groups, selected on the basis of broad geographical and philosophical diversity, had worked intensively in the preparations for the 1974 Conference.

16. Mr. EHRMANN (United Kingdom) said he wondered whether the information just provided by Ms. Doss could be included in an addendum to the paper to be submitted to the second regular session. He requested clarification from the representative of the Budget Division on the figure of $3,009,200 quoted as representing the total cost of the Conference.

17. Mr. ELHASSAN (Sudan) asked if Ms. Doss could provide a breakdown of the figure of $600,000 mentioned for public information activities.

18. Ms. DOSS (Director, Division for Economic and Social Information) replied that a detailed breakdown was impossible at present because DPI was still working out the division of labour with its sister agencies. In response to the representative of the United Kingdom, she said that the information could certainly be issued for the second regular session.

19. Mr. SACH (Budget Division) said that the reduction in total costs was $290,800, so the revised estimate was $3,009,200.

20. Mr. LUTFI (Jordan) said that the inflation rates listed in annex II for 1982 and 1983 were different for the various activities and requested clarification. He assumed that Arabic would be a working language of the Conference but it was not included in the language costs listed. He had ascertained that the additional cost represented by Arabic would be around $338,000, and suggested that that figure should be reflected in the document.

21. He also wondered whether a World Population Conference was really necessary and whether the issues might not more effectively be discussed in an ad hoc committee of the United Nations.

22. Mr. ESAN (Nigeria) said that it had been decided that the relevance of the Conference should be taken up at the second regular session, and that matter should not be brought up now. His delegation supported the idea of a World Population Conference because population problems were still grave, especially in some regions, and required the type of action which a Conference could propose.

23. Miss COURSON (France) said that her delegation had no objection to the postponing of the consideration and adoption of draft resolution I until the second regular session. However, the Committee must keep in mind the fact that the need for a World Population Conference had been expressed by an independent body, the Population Commission. She hoped that all necessary steps would be taken to ensure that the Conference was held in 1984 on a cost-effective basis.

24. Mr. SACH (Budget Division), replying to the question from the representative of Jordan, said that the inflation rates shown in annex II reflected those used to compute the 1982-1983 proposed programme budget. The rates were lower for 1983 than for 1982, and those for New York were higher than those for Geneva. Conference services for the first three meetings listed in the annex were to be provided by New York-based conference services staff, and the inflation rates for New York had been used in calculating the total cost of those meetings. Conference services for the final three meetings listed in the annex were to be provided by Geneva-based conference services staff, and accordingly reflected the lower inflation rate for Geneva.

25. With regard to cost estimates for Arabic language services, the Budget Division's standard practice was to furnish calculations of costs for a sixth language only upon written request in the form of a draft resolution.

26. Mr. ABDALLAH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the General Assembly had adopted a resolution calling for Arabic to be made an official language of the Economic and Social Council by 1982. Since the Conference would be held in 1984, Arabic language services should be included in the estimates and his delegation would favour amending draft resolution I to include the formal request referred to by Mr. Sach.

27. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the inclusion of Arabic should not be discussed at the current meeting and that the Secretariat should be authorized to indicate in its paper for the second regular session that Arabic language costs might have to be added to the total cost for the Conference.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that he had certain proposals to make on the agenda item under discussion.

29. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) and Miss FORD (Canada) requested that the proposals should be made available in writing to enable their delegations to give them due consideration.

30. Miss COURSON (France) said that, as a matter of principle, the proposals should be circulated in all of the Council's working languages.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would make the necessary arrangements.

32. He invited the Committee to consider draft resolution II ("Strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Plan of Action").

33. Mrs. RAVN (Norway) proposed the following amendment:

> "Urges the Secretary-General, UNFPA and other international bodies concerned to continue supporting the World Fertility Survey to ensure that fertility and family planning data are collected and analysed as required, inter alia, for monitoring of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action;".

(Mrs. Ravn, Norway)

34. Her delegation wished to know whether that amendment had any financial implications.

35. Mr. TABAH (Director, Population Division) said that the proposal had no financial implications.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution, as amended.

37. It was so decided.

38. The CHAIRMAN, referring to draft resolution III, entitled "Work programme in the field of population", said that at the previous day's informal meeting it had been agreed to amend paragraph 2 (p) by replacing the words "In the event of a forthcoming World Population Conference" by "to continue".

39. Mr. VELLOSO (Brazil) said that, since decisions on the Conference had been postponed to the second regular session, he wished to propose the deletion from paragraph 2 (p) of the words "at a time that would enable a report on the results of the inquiry to be submitted to the Conference;".

40. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution, as amended.

41. It was so decided.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that an informal agreement had also been reached to postpone taking action on the provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Commission, as contained in draft decision B of the Commission's report. If he heard no objection, he would take it that such was the Committee's wish.

43. It was so decided.

44. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Population Commission on the work of its twenty-first session.

45. It was so decided.

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation in 1981 (A/36/117).

47. It was so decided.

TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS (continued) (E/1981/35; E/1981/C.1/L.2)

48. Mr. DUVAL (Budget Division) said that at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly the Fifth Committee had been advised that publication of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods would cost some $83,000. It had been assumed at that time that the recommendations

(Mr. Duval, Budget Division)

would be printed internally at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The information on which that assumption had been based had appeared valid until recently.

49. Miss EVANS (United Kingdom) said that her delegation wished to know exactly why the recommendations could not be published immediately. They were ready for publication, and a resolution of the Council was being ignored.

50. Mr. GUEYE (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) said that there was no financial problem in publishing the recommendations. They might require some final work but should be published in the near future.

51. Mr. METELITS (United States of America) said that the Council had taken a decision on the matter which had been endorsed by the General Assembly, yet the recommendations had still not been published. No further delay was acceptable.

52. Miss COURSON (France) said that members of the Secretariat were passing the blame back and forth. Her delegation trusted that the problems would be speedily resolved.

53. Mr. GUEYE (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Secretariat was awaiting a reply from the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to see what assistance might be required to finalize publication.

54. Mr. IKANI (United Republic of Cameroon) said that he was astounded to find that Council decisions had been disregarded by those whose responsibility it was to implement them. The excuses proferred were worthless. The situation was establishing a dangerous precedent.

55. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was important to develop international co-operation in the transport of dangerous goods. The Soviet Union played an active role in organs dealing with that subject. It was, for example, widely known that in the final clauses of the Helsinki Agreement the Soviet Union had taken initiatives relating to the transport of dangerous goods.

56. His delegation appreciated the work of the Committee of Experts. The proposed international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport would improve safety conditions and help to reduce pollution.

57. Funds for the publication of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts should be provided from existing resources. The decision to publish the recommendations had been taken at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and the Secretariat should ensure that they were published forthwith.

58. His delegation considered the proposed programme for the future work of the Committee and its working groups acceptable.

59. Mr. PAW U (Chief, Regional Commissions Liaison Unit) said that the study was ready for publication, which had been assigned to ECE.

60. Mr. SCHLAFF (Executive Officer, Department of Conference Services) explained that in May 1979 it had been estimated that the cost of publication would be $190,000. The estimates had been based on the assumption that the work would be offered to external contractors, since neither Headquarters nor the United Nations Office at Geneva could do the printing. In October 1979 the Fifth Committee had been informed that the most cost effective way of publishing the recommendations would be for the Geneva Office to publish the recommendations internally, in which case some $83,000 would be necessary.

61. Preparations for publication were almost complete. Yet the particular format of the recommendations made it impossible to print them at the United Nations, so that additional funds were required for external publication. If internal publication were preferred, a less satisfactory format would have to be adopted.

62. Mr. METELITS (United States of America) said that the Secretariat might have better employed the energy it had devoted to manufacturing excuses to the publication of the recommendations. The situation was entirely unsatisfactory.

63. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) noted that the Fifth Committee had been informed in document A/C.5/34/18, annex I, paragraph 10.3 that the Secretary-General intended to have the document printed internally in the United Nations Office at Geneva. Had the Secretary-General been aware, at the time, of the difficulties of which the Council had just been informed? The Council was being faced with a stark choice: having the document printed in an unsatisfactory manner or facing up to the need to provide additional appropriations. Why had the Secretary-General intended, in 1979, to have the document printed internally, despite the disadvantages of such a procedure, and why was it impossible to redeploy funds within the considerable resources of section 29 of the programme budget to finance that relatively small expenditure?

64. Mr. DUVAL (Budget Division) replied that the revised estimates submitted to the General Assembly had been based on the information available at that time. The Secretary-General had at no time indicated that there would be no financial implications involved in publication of the document but had merely stated that it was not possible to establish to what extent the costs could be absorbed from within the totality of the provisions made under section 29 and that he would return to the matter within the context of the first performance report.

65. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) pointed out that the Secretary-General made proposals but it was for Member States to take decisions on the proposals. In the case before the Council the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had made a clear recommendation which had been approved by the Fifth Committee and the plenary Assembly. The Secretariat simply had not taken the necessary action. If the Department of Conference Services had known that it would need a certain amount for a specific purpose it should have put that amount aside. The present situation was unacceptable.

66. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he could not but agree. As he understood it, the Council had been given all the technical details in 1979. Why had the Secretariat not made any effort so far to implement

(Mr. Shapovalov, USSR)

a decision adopted by the Council two years earlier? That mistake must be corrected and no additional funding must be provided for the purpose.

67. Mr. SCHLAFF (Executive Officer, Department of Conference Services) said that he was not in a position to explain how the Secretariat had arrived at its present position. He had the responsibility of informing the Council that, if the document was to be printed in its present format, it would have to be printed externally and an additional appropriation of approximately $125,000 would be required. There appeared to be three alternatives: (1) the printing could be done internally at the Geneva Office but the document would have a different format, and would be less useful; (2) additional appropriations, based on the estimate just quoted, could be made available so that the document could be printed externally; (3) on the instructions of ACABQ some other document which had been scheduled for printing externally and for which appropriations had been made could be cancelled so as to make the necessary funds available.

68. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) expressed regret at the fact that implementation of a decision of the General Assembly and of the Council had been delayed so long. The Council must now decide how to resolve the issue. His delegation would prefer no additional expenditure to be incurred.

69. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) introduced draft resolution E/1981/C.1/L.2 on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation and his own delegation. He drew attention to paragraphs 2 and 3, which dealt with substantive issues, and to paragraph 6, which focused on the need to ensure appropriate dissemination of the results of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Subparagraph 6 (b) was particularly important. Finally, he informed the Council that Canada and the Netherlands had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

70. Miss EVANS (United Kingdom), commenting on the point made by the representative of the Department of Conference Services that there might be a role for ACABQ, said that as two years had elapsed since the resolution in question had been adopted the publication of the report of the Committee of Experts had acquired an urgent character. Accordingly, she proposed that ACABQ should be asked to look into the question as a matter of urgency. Leaving aside the possibility of using funds intended for the external publication of another document, ACABQ should try to see whether there was not alternative financing available under section 29 of the programme budget.

71. Her delegation attached importance to the issue before the Council because the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods was the foremost authority in the field and had spent much time and effort on becoming so. The International Civil Aviation Organization had nearly completed its recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and they were based fully on the United Nations system. Similarly the European road and rail transport agreements were being brought into line with United Nations regulations, and many national regulations including those of her own country had been or were being drafted on the basis of the work done at the United Nations. That was of enormous importance as regards

(Miss Evans, United Kingdom)

the commercial listing, classification and packaging of dangerous goods. The recommendations of the Committee of Experts had last been issued in 1977 and were out of date as much technical progress had taken place since then. It was essential that the revised recommendations should be published. Her delegation expressed regret at the administrative oversight which had prevented their publication so far and entirely associated itself with the remarks made by the representative of the United States in introducing draft resolution E/1981/C.1/L.2.

72. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to ask ACABQ to look into the question of the publication of the revised recommendations as a matter of urgency.

73. It was so decided.

74. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1981/C.1/L.2.

75. Draft resolution E/1981/C.1/L.2 was adopted.

76. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of item 15.

UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND PLANNING (A/36/69; E/1981/26)

77. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation attached great importance to the comprehensive discussion, within the United Nations, of the question of a unified approach to development analysis and planning. Experience in the socialist countries had demonstrated that integrated planning on a national scale was the only effective method of achieving economic and social development and raising cultural and material living standards. The economic and social development policy adopted by the Party at the twenty-sixth Congress encompassed a large-scale social development programme designed to promote economic growth and improve the well-being of the people through gradual development of the economy, acceleration of scientific and technical progress and more rational use of potential. The Soviet Union had introduced the idea of a unified approach within the United Nations.

78. The Commission for Social Development had devoted considerable attention to the subject at its twenty-seventh session and had submitted two important draft resolutions: draft resolution VI on emerging social issues of international concern and draft resolution XI on the social aspects of the development activities of the United Nations. He drew attention, in particular, to paragraphs 3 and 7 of the latter. The unified approach to development was reflected in General Assembly resolution 3409 (XXX), in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, in the International Development Strategy and in other documents. The Council could make an important contribution by considering the question of a unified approach on a regular basis. Unfortunately, the instructions set forth in General Assembly resolution 3409 (XXX) requesting suggestions /.../ on the practical application of a unified approach to development had not been adequately implemented, as the

(Mr. Shapovalov, USSR)

Council had simply been provided with information supplied by Governments and some negative recommendations. It was therefore important that the Council should take a decision at the current session on the further work of the United Nations in that field. The importance of a unified approach to development was stressed in paragraph 42 of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. His delegation would be grateful if the Chairman could introduce a draft decision on the continuation of work on a unified approach to development planning, so that the Council could adopt a positive approach.

79. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) said that, in the light of past experience, his delegation wished to emphasize the importance of improving institutional co-ordination at the national and international levels drawing, in particular, on the experience of the 1960s and the 1970s which had demonstrated the need to avoid relying too heavily on Governments in the promotion of social development. His delegation felt that the institutions should encourage individual and group initiatives instead.

80. Mr. EHRMANN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully supported the view, expressed in paragraph 42 of General Assembly resolution 35/56, that development was an integral process, embodying both economic and social objectives. Since the resolution had been adopted by consensus it could be assumed that all delegations would agree with that statement. Therefore it seemed strange that the Secretary-General should have separated the part of the Secretariat concerned with social development from the part dealing with economic development. In view of the exhortation contained in the International Development Strategy, he wondered whether the Secretary-General planned to bring the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs back to New York.

81. Mr. VORONIN (Secretary of the Committee) said that he would draw the attention of the representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to the matter.

82. The CHAIRMAN announced that he had prepared, on the basis of consultations, a draft resolution which would be circulated to all delegations.

83. Mr. HANKEY (Canada) said that he trusted that any financial implications would be communicated to the Council before it was asked to adopt any decision on the matter.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.